



Match Report

Opponent: Potomac Athletic Club

Date: 25 Feb 06

First Match:	Navy	15	PAC	43	A Side
Second Match:	Navy	5	PAC	26	B Side

Continuing their run up to the MARFU playoffs, Navy brought in the Potomac Athletic Club this Saturday. Despite a slight hiccup just before kickoff, PAC realized they did not have their jerseys and had to wear some gold kits from Navy, the game began with a quick start. Navy kicked off and Pac immediately went on the attack. They combined well through multiple phases to earn a lineout inside Navy's 22. PAC controlled the line out on the left side and quickly moved the ball to the right, though the back hands, to score on the right side, no conversion (Navy 0 PAC 5). Now it was Navy's turn to drive. The Blue and Gray clad Mids moved down the field and won a penalty just outside the 22. However, senior wing Lane Drummond's kick went wide. The next ten minutes saw PAC score twice as they punched in a 5 meter penalty and then swung wide leaving their fullback to trot in the last ten meters, neither converted (Navy 0 PAC 15).

Navy responded with its best play of the half. Strong combination work between the backs and forwards saw Navy maintain possession for almost 7

minutes. Navy produced strong mauling off a lineout inside 22, won a penalty within 5 meters of the PAC try zone, and used a scrum to set up their first score. While the play directly from the scrum was stopped, senior hooker Chris Gonzales powered in on the second phase to put Navy on the board, no conversion (Navy 5 PAC 15).

PAC was quick to respond with two more scores before the half. Their next was pounded in off second phase ball by the outside center after PAC picked the ball out of a Navy ruck, converted (Navy 5 PAC 22). The last score of the half saw some excellent interplay between the PAC wing and outside center. The two combined perfectly to pin the last Navy defender and allow the wing to trot in, converted (Navy 5 PAC 29).

PAC started the second half right where they had left off. They scored just three minutes in when they played a quick penalty within 10 meters to the wing, converted (Navy 5 PAC 36). The game slowed down as both teams exchanged possessions between the 22's. At the three quarters point of the match Navy would get back on the

scoreboard. Second class center Michael Humara scored up the middle off a feed from senior scrum half Mac Marrone, no conversion (Navy 10 PAC 36).

Each team would score within the last 5 minutes of the game. PAC scored their last on an elusive 40 meter scamper by their wing who followed it with a strong conversion (Navy 10 PAC 43). Drummond would give Navy the last points when he dove in on the third phase off a scrum at 15 meters, no conversion (Navy 15 PAC 43). PAC paid back the favor of using Navy's kit with a strong match that Navy should take a lot a way from.

PAC kicked to open the second match which closely matched the first game's tough pace. Both teams' second sides were eager to prove their worth against a quality opponent. The game moved freely between the 22's with drives by the forwards and strong defense by the backs. It took 12 minutes before either side was in their opponents 22. However, once there, PAC struck. Multiple drives started from a scrum saw the PAC forwards draw first blood, converted (Navy 0 PAC 7). Navy would use similar play to construct their response. Starting with a 5 meter scrum, Navy pounded forwards just off the rucks and sucked in the PAC midfield. Third class center Jordan Fogler then slipped through the cracks and dove in to put Navy on the board, no conversion (Navy 5 PAC 7). Though Navy did well to stop PAC on a counter to the left, PAC struck through

their center who burst through the line on the stroke of halftime to take a 14-5 lead to the break.

The second half saw play drop off a little as both sides made changes to their 15. The game remained around midfield for the first ten minutes. PAC, however, slowly gained the momentum and began to pressure Navy. Their pack would power the first try of the half in at the 55 minute mark just to the left of the posts, converted (Navy 5 PAC 21). Though the Navy pack was able to run successive phases of the rucks and the backs were able to get the ball wide, PAC's defense was able to contain any brief Navy bursts through the line. The strong defense was matched by Navy, especially in the midfield where the holes disappeared for the PAC centers. It would another 10 minutes before PAC picked up their last try. Again, their much larger pack in size and experience was the source as they controlled a scrum and rumbled in off phase play, no conversion (Navy 5 PAC 26).

The remainder of the half saw a continuation of the defensive play in the half. Both teams would venture within the others 22, but the score would remain at 26-5 until the final whistle.

The goal for both teams is to be playing strong at the end of their respective seasons and this certainly provided some valuable minutes for both squads. Both PAC and Navy were able to use the opportunity to evaluate players and gain some valuable game fitness. Thanks to PAC for trekking out

to Annapolis and best of luck this coming summer.

Scoring Stats:

A Side

Trys

Drummond

Gonzales

Humara

Penalties

None

Conversions made

None

Conversions missed

Drummond

Miller x2

Cards

None

B Side

Trys

Fogler

Penalties

None

Conversions made

None

Conversions missed

one

Cards

None